A NEW SPECIES OF ACROBASIS FROM THE TRANS-PECOS REGION OF TEXAS (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE)[1]

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ABSTRACT—*Acrobasis* **blanchardorum**, n. sp., is described from west Texas where it has been collected at elevations of approximately 5,000 to 7,000 ft. This species appears to be most closely related to *Acrobasis minimella* Ragonot.

This paper provides a name for a new species of *Acrobasis*, so that it can be included by A. and M. E. Blanchard in an annotated list of the moths of Texas.

I wish to express my thanks to the Blanchards for the opportunity to examine this material, and for permission to describe the following new species.

Acrobasis blanchardorum, new species
fig. 1–6

Wing expanse 18–21 mm.

Head usually reddish brown, varying from pale brown to reddish brown suffused with purple. Labial palpi reddish brown, or reddish brown with black, becoming white on inner surfaces and at basal 1/5. Basal segment of antenna fuscous and reddish brown.

Collar reddish brown to pale brown. Dorsum of thorax fuscous with pale brown and/or reddish-brown scales. No sex-scaling on thorax.

Primaries fuscous, conspicuously irrorate with white, white concentrated on basal area near raised-scale ridge and extending anteriorly to costa, on median area, and in terminal area beyond subterminal line; basal area with brownish-red scales anteriorly and medially, and ochreous patch near posterior margin; antemedial line obscure; a black, or black and reddish brown, triangular costal patch following antemedial line; raised-scale ridge distinct reddish brown (with some black scales in a few specimens, but reddish-brown scales predominating); area between scale ridge and antemedial line ochreous; discal spots usually distinct; subterminal line distinct at costa becoming indistinct elsewhere; scattered, somewhat obscure, reddish-brown scales between subterminal line and whitish terminal area and below discal spots; undersurface of male with sex-scaling consisting of long black streak just below costa which is covered for about 1/3 of its length at base with yellowish-white to white scales. Secondaries pale smoky fuscous; undersurface of male with sex-scaling consisting of long black streak just below costa.

Male genitalia with gnathos terminating in simple hook; transtilla with posterior

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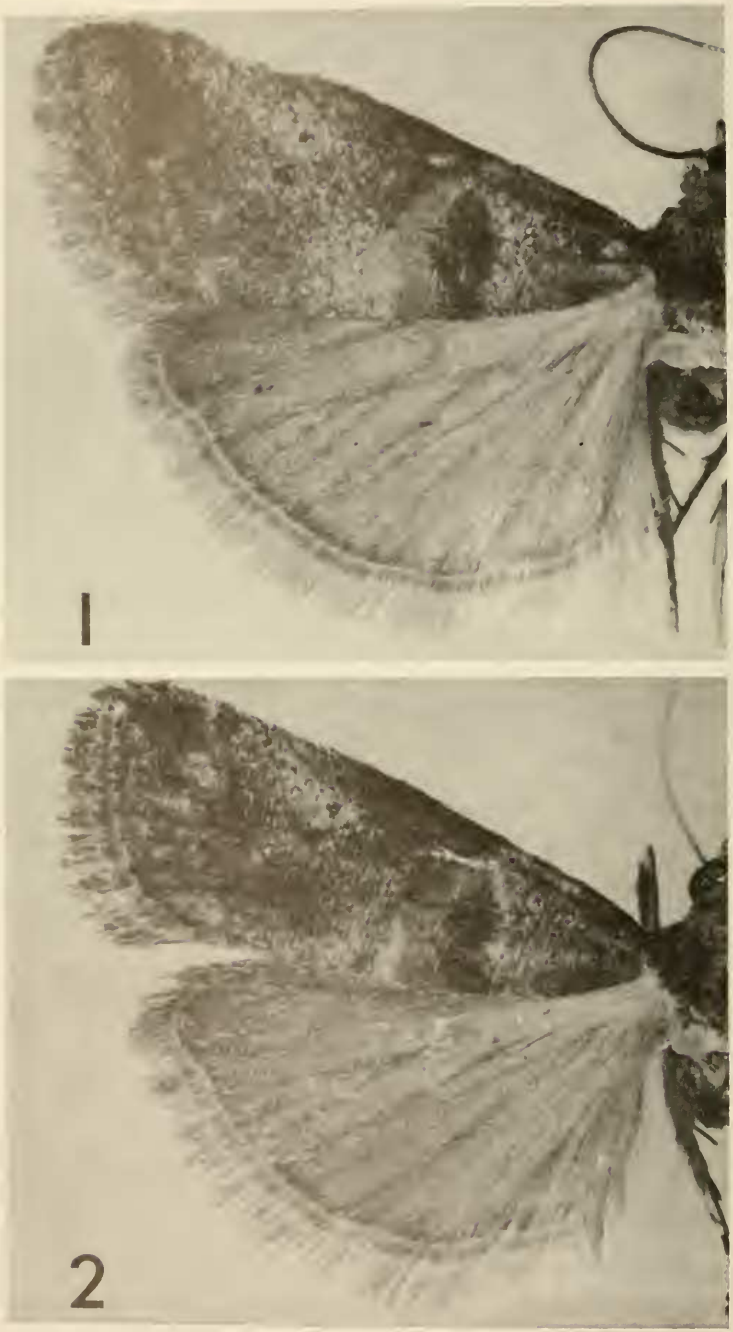

Fig. 1, 2. *Acrobasis blanchardorum*. 1, male (holotype). 2, female.

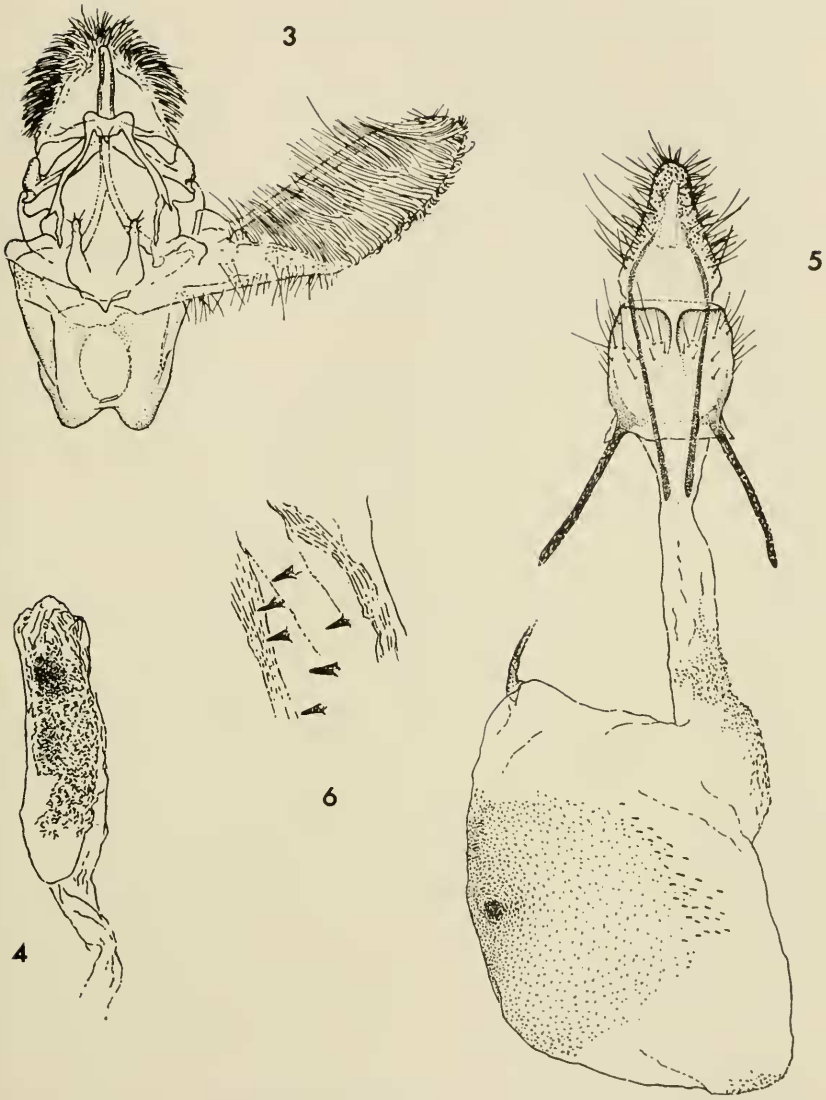

Fig. 3–6. *Acrobasis blanchardorum*. 3, 4, male genitalia. 5, female genitalia. 6, enlarged portion of inner wall of corpus showing a few of the inwardly projecting spines.

terminal margins rounded and distinctly concave; anellus a U-shaped plate; aedeagus simple.

Female genitalia with ductus bursae elongate, membranous, and minutely scobinate near union with corpus; corpus bursae with 2 distinct groups of 30–40

small inwardly projecting spines and numerous minute scobinations covering about 1/2 of the corpus and surrounding a single signum.

Holotype: Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area, 6000′, Culberson Co., Texas, ♂, 5–VI–69, A. & M. E. Blanchard, USNM type no. 72179, ♂ genitalia slide HHN 168; in the United States National Museum (USNM).

Paratypes: TEXAS: Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area, 6000′, Culberson Co., 5 ♂, 3 ♀, 5–VI–69, A. & M. E. Blanchard. Guadalupe Mts., Nickel Creek, 5000′, 1 ♂, 10–VII–68, A. & M. E. Blanchard. Davis Mountains, Mount Locke, 6700′, 1 ♂, 4–VII–69, A. & M. E. Blanchard. Davis Mountains, 5 mi. SE Livermore, 6000′, 1 ♀, 29–VIII–70, A. & M. E. Blanchard.

The paratypes have been deposited as follows: 1 ♂, 2 ♀, from Sierra Diablo in the USNM; 1 ♂ from Sierra Diablo and 1 ♀ from Davis Mountains, Livermore, in the North Carolina State University Museum; remaining paratypes in the collection of A. Blanchard.

Larval Host: Unknown.

Distribution: Presently known only from the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas. Collected at elevations of 5000–6700 feet.

Discussion: *Acrobasis blanchardorum* appears to be most closely related to *Acrobasis minimella* Ragonot. Both *A. blanchardorum* and *A. minimella* have a raised-scale ridge on the primaries and a gnathos with its apical process a simple hook. This is a combination of characters previously recorded, in the North American species of *Acrobasis,* only for *A. minimella.* All other known species of the genus, in North America, either have smooth primaries and a gnathos with the apical process a simple hook, or they possess a raised-scale ridge on the primaries and a gnathos with the apical process trifurcate.

In addition, the location and amount of male sex-scaling is similar in *A. blanchardorum* and *A. minimella,* and the presence of distinct groups of inwardly projecting spines on the female corpus bursae is common to both species.

Acrobasis blanchardorum, can be most easily distinguished from *A. minimella* on the basis of size and coloration. *Acrobasis blanchardorum* is larger (*A. minimella* has a wing expanse of only 13–16 mm) and is, in general, much lighter in color than *A. minimella* (white scaling is very evident on *A. blanchardorum* and obscure on *A. minimella.* Also, the raised-scale ridge of *A. blanchardorum* is reddish brown, or predominately reddish brown, and the scale ridge of *A. minimella* is black).

Differences in genitalia between the 2 species appear to be slight. With the male genitalia, the lateral arms of the gnathos of *A. minimella* are uniformly stout with the basal posteriorly projecting elements short. *Acrobasis blanchardorum* has the lateral arms of the gnathos

becoming more slender basally and the posteriorly projecting elements more elongate. Also the posterior margins of the transtilla are more angulate in *A. minimella* than in *A. blanchardorum*.

No differences have been detected in the female genitalia.

Acrobasis minimella occurs from New Jersey south to Florida and west to east Texas. It has not been collected in the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas where *A. blanchardorum* is present.

Acrobasis blanchardorum is named after Andre and M. E. Blanchard who collected the species.

CECIDOMYIIDAE FROM MEXICAN TERTIARY AMBER (DIPTERA)

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ABSTRACT—Nine species of Cecidomyiidae from Tertiary Mexican amber are found to belong in or near extant genera and, in some cases, to be close to or indistinguishable from extant species.

This report is based on 12 cecidomyiids preserved in 11 pieces of Mexican amber, dated Upper Oligocene to Lower Miocene, and includes the first fossil adult records of the supertribe Cecidomyiidi. Some of the specimens are close to extant species, and all can be referred at least questionably to extant genera. Although the sample is very small, there is nothing to indicate that the cecidomyiid fauna of ca. 30 million years ago was generically different from today's: present were *Contarinia*, one of the largest extant cecidomyiid genera which contains closely host-specific gall-makers, the predaceous *Lestodiplosis*, the selectively mycophagous *Clinodiplosis* and *Bremia*, and a porricondyline of the tribe Heteropezini, all recent species of which exhibit paedogenesis.

Although 3 of the species listed here are new, in the sense that they are unlike extant species known to me, I think there would be no advantage in describing them formally. Naming them would tell us no more than we already know and would require detailed future

I wish to thank Dr. Joseph H. Peck, Jr., of the Department of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, for the loan of the specimens, and all those who acquired, prepared, or made available these fossils for study. The specimens are deposited in the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, California.